

2879



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard LaPeruta JR, et al.
Serial Number: 09/827,720
Atty. Dkt: PU000162
Filing Date: April 07, 2001
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING MASK STRAND
SPATIAL UNIFORMITY

Art Unit: 2879
Examiner: Jason R. Phinney

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maria
2/21/03

AMENDMENT

Box Non Fee Amendment
Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JAN 22 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action of October 24, 2002, which has a three-month shortened statutory period for reply ending January 24, 2002.

Please enter the following amendments and remarks.

"Version without Markings"

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the full paragraph beginning on page 2, line 4 with the following:

a
The present invention provides a method and apparatus for maintaining uniform spacing between the strands of a tension mask frame. The apparatus includes providing a set of barrier ridges and affixing them to a tension mask. The barrier ridge is aligned perpendicular to the strands of the tension mask and affixed to the frame near the ends of the tension mask. The barrier ridges traverse the length of the tension mask and act to keep the mask strands parallel and equidistantly spaced from each other when faced with applied stress during mask welding and subsequent thermal